

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

IO-10 NEA-09 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 /104 W
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P 070321Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1953

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

BANGKOK ALSO FOR RED

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 7/7/75

TAGS: EAID, EFIN

SUBJECT: PORPOSED ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR OUTREACH
PROGRAMS IN VEGETABLE RESEARCH PROJECT

SUMMARY: ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSES TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE (TA) GRANT OF ADVISORY AND REGIONAL
NATURE AGGREGATING \$390,000 FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
OUTREACH PROGRAMS FOR VEGETABLE RESEARCH IN KOREA,
PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND. THESE PROPOSED NATIONAL
PROGRAMS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK IN CLOSE COOPERATION
WITH BANK-ASSISTED ASIAN VEGETABLE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER LOCATED IN SHANHUA, REPUBLIC
OF CHINA. USADB RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION.
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1. ADB DOC. R29-75 DESCRIBING PROPOSED GRANT
POUCHED ADDRESSEES MARCH 31. BOARD CONSIDERATION
SCHEDULED APRIL 15.

2. ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSING \$390,000 TA TO
FINANCE FOREX COST OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS FOR
VEGETABLE RESEARCH PROJECT IN KOREA, PHILIPPINES
AND THAILAND.

3. ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A VEGETABLE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE WAS CONCEIVED BY USAID IN
VIEW NEED TO IMPROVE DIET OF ASIANS BY INCREASING
PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLES. IN RESPONSE TO JOINT
REQUEST FROM SEVEN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (JAPAN,
THAILAND, KOREA, PHILIPPINES, VIETNAM, ROC AND
UNITED STATES), ADB IN MARCH 1969 APPROVED
\$300,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIAN
VEGETABLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (AVRDC).
CENTER'S CHARTER WAS SIGNED IN MAY 1971, AND TOTAL
BUDGET FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS (1971-1976) WAS
ESTIMATED AT \$7.5 MILLION EQUIVALENT.

4. BUILDING CONTRUCTION WAS UNDERTAKEN DURING
PERIOD 1972-1974 AND INCLUDED LABORATORY,
ADMINISTRATION-CUM-OFFICE BUILDING, GREENHOUSE
COMPLEX, TRAINING CENTER, SERVICE BUILDING AND
STAFF QUARTERS. BANK'S CONTRIBUTION WAS USED
TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FOR BUILDINGS AND
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

5. AVRDC'S RESEARCH PROGRAM HAS AIMED AT IMPROVING
VEGETABLE YIELDS THROUGH PLANT BREEDING AND
IMPROVEMENT OF CULTURAL PRACTICES. TO DATE AVRDC
HAS CONCENTRATED RESEARCH EFFORTS ON MUNG BEAN,
SOYBEAN, TOMATO, SWEET POTATO, WHITE POTATO AND
CHINESE CABBAGE. THESE CROPS ARE IMPORTANT
IN TROPICS, SUB-TROPICS AND TEMPERATE ZONES.
EMPHASIS IS ON IMPROVING YIELDS AND FOOD VALUE.
RESEARCH WORK HAS NOW REACHED STAGE WHERE IT IS
CONSIDERED THAT MANY ELITE SELECTIONS AND
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HYBRID PROGENY ARE READY FOR EVALUATION IN OUTREACH
PROGRAMS.

6. CENTER ITSELF IS SHORTLY TO COMMENCE TRAINING
COURSES MAINLY IN RESEARCH AND IN EXTENSION WORK
AND FARM MANAGEMENT. CAFETERIA-DORMITORY BUILDING
DESIGNED TO HOUSE 40 TO 50 TRAINEES IS READY FOR
OCCUPANCY.

7. BALANCE SHEET FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS SHOWS FINANCIAL DEFICIT OF \$664,182 DUE TO INFLATION AND INCREASED EQUIPMENT COSTS. ON BASIS OF ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AT TIME AVRDC CHARTER WAS SIGNED, ROC HAS AGREED TO MAKE UP DEFICIT.

8. IN VIEW RESEARCH PROGRESS MADE AT AVRDC, GOVERNMENTS OF KOREA, PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND HAVE REQUESTED TA FROM BANK FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS IN VEGETABLE RESEARCH IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. PROPOSED TA FOR EACH COUNTRY WOULD PROVIDE FOR: (A) APPOINTMENT OF EXPATRIATE SCIENTIST FOR TWO-YEAR PERIOD TO RUN OUTREACH PROGRAM; (B) TRAINING OF LOCAL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AT AVRDC; (C) SUPPORTING SERVICES FROM AVRDC FOR SHORT-TERM SPECIALIST ADVICE, ETC.; AND (D) REQUIRED EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY AND SUPPLIES.

9. FOREX COST OF EACH OUTREACH PROGRAM ESTIMATED AT \$130,000 OR TOTAL OF \$390,000. THREE COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY SELECTED SUITABLE SITES AND WILL PROVIDE COUNTERPART SERVICES, LOCAL COSTS AND OTHER REQUIRED FACILITIES. THEY WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUATION OF PROGRAMS AFTER INITIAL TWO-YEAR PERIOD. THUS, PROPOSED BANK SUPPORT IS FOR SELF-COMPLETED ITEM, AND THREE COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CONTINUATION OF OUTREACH PROGRAM FROM OWN SOURCES. ASSURANCES TO THAT EFFECT HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

10. PROPOSED TA FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM IS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVISORY AND REGIONAL NATURE AND WILL ASSIST AVRDC IN MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS MEETING FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF ASIAN PEOPLE. THREE COUNTRIES INVOLVED HAVE VARIED ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTS AND RESEARCH RESULTS OF OUTREACH EXERCISE WOULD BE USEFUL TO OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. BOARD DOCUMENT PLAYS DOWN AVRDC ASSOCIATION WITH ROC. USADB SUPPORTS PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION.

11. BANGKOK, BANGKOK RED, MANILA, SEOUL AND TAIPEI ARE REQUESTED TO COMMENT FOR NAC AGENCIES, INFO USADB MANILA, PURSUANT TO STATE 119795 DTD 3 JULY 1972. SULLIVAN

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